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S E C R E T ANKARA 005000

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [PGOV](#) [PINS](#) [TU](#) [IZ](#)

SUBJECT: TURKEY IMPLEMENTS PKK/KADEK REINTEGRATION LAW,
PRESSES FOR START OF U.S.-TURKISH TALKS

REF: ANKARA 4864

(U) Classified by Polcouns John Kunstadter; reasons: 1.5
(b,d).

11. (S) Summary: Implementing its newly-ratified Reintegration Law to attract PKK/KADEK members back from Iraq and Western Europe, the GOT is pushing strongly for U.S.-Turkish talks on PKK/KADEK to begin soonest. End summary.

12. (C) Aug. 7 we pressed MFA DDG for Intelligence Kemal Asya for details of implementation of Turkey's new Reintegration Law, which President Sezer ratified earlier this week.

13. (S) Noting that the law went into effect only on Aug. 6, Asya acknowledged it will take several weeks to judge its effectiveness in attracting PKK/KADEK members to hand themselves over. He agreed that the major factor in ensuring the law's attractiveness will be the speed and care with which Turkish authorities process and release PKK/KADEKers determined not to have participated in violent acts.

14. (S) Asya conceded that the prospect of heavy prison sentences for those implicated in violent acts would likely make them seek asylum in Iran, Sweden or other countries rather than return. Asya reiterated GOT concern that the PKK/KADEK leadership now in Iraq would head to Western Europe, a development which would concern the GOT deeply and which, he implied, could have an effect on GOT perceptions of U.S. willingness to help eliminate PKK/KADEK.

15. (S) In response, we reiterated the USG's stated intent to eliminate PKK/KADEK from Iraq and foreclose any further use of Iraqi territory by terrorist organizations threatening Turkey. At the same time we noted rumors circulating among anti-PKK/KADEK Kurdish nationalists in Turkey that the Turkish State is using PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan, serving a life sentence, as a tool to drive a wedge between Kurdish nationalists in Turkey and Barzani/Talebani. In response, Asya merely counter-probed for our assessment of Kurdish sentiment in Turkey.

16. (S) Asya said Turkish embassies in Western Europe are instructed to facilitate issuance of passports to those wishing to return from there. The GOT has set up processing facilities in Kirlareli (northwest of Istanbul), Silopi near the meeting point of the Turkish-Syrian-Iraqi borders, and Van (for returnees from Iran or the Caucasus). The aim is to finish the identification and release within two days of those not associated with violent acts. Those subject to indictment would be held for an initial four-day investigation period, extendable to a total investigatory detention time of 15 days before pre-trial detention.

17. (S) We requested a continual flow of MFA readouts on results. Asya undertook to provide us a first readout toward the end of the week of Aug. 11. Underscoring the GOT's expectation that the U.S. will initiate talks on PKK/KADEK soonest and expressing the GOT's strong preference for the talks to take place in Ankara, Asya then asked suspiciously whether the U.S. request for updates on the law's effect would serve as a reason to delay the start of talks. Despite our strong and immediate demurral (we subsequently came back to this point to emphasize the lack of linkage), Asya appeared uneasy.

DEUTSCH